In the specification:

Please replace the Summary of the Invention as follows:

The present invention is a wire stripper that can be utilized to rapidly strip insulation from a number of wires simultaneously. Moreover, the wire stripper of the present invention can be used simultaneously on a variety of different gauge wires. A stripping block has a plurality of wire apertures of varying diameters. Cooperating and continuous with the apertures are a plurality of blade receiving slots. A blade is positioned into at least one of the slots so that its cutting edge enters into an aperture. A ~~tensioning~~ compress bar is tightened down onto the blade to exert tensioning pressure. Wire is inserted into the wire aperture with the appropriate diameter for the selected gauge of wire. The ~~tensioning~~ compress bar is tightened using wing nuts so that enough pressure is exerted onto the blade to slit the insulation of the wire without damaging the conductive strand. In this manner, the insulation of the wire is slit in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the wire. Therefore, large amounts of insulation can be stripped off the wire. Moreover, by utilizing a plurality of blades, multiple wire and wires of various gauges can be stripped simultaneously.

Please replace the paragraph starting at line 85 as follows:

A sharp wire stripping blade **20** is provided which blade is best viewed in Figure 3 and which has one very sharp cutting surface **22**. In addition, the blade includes two holes **24** (one on each end of the blade) which are positioned so that they will interact with the rod receiving bore **18** on the stripping block. The holes are best presented in the form of a tear-drop shape as shown or in the shape of a half moon. Two holes are preferable since in this configuration the blade will be reversible. Round holes can be used in the blades depending on what material is used to manufacture the stripping block. However, half-moon or tear-drop shaped holed will allow the blade to move up or down with coordinating pressure from the ~~tensioning~~ <u>compress</u> bar **28**.

Please replace the paragraph starting at line 102 as follows:

A ~~tensioning~~ compress bar **28** is provided which preferably has as length that is substantially similar to the length of the block. The ~~tensioning~~ compress bar has holes along its length for insertion of the bolts **30** which are used to attach the ~~tensioning~~ compress bar to the block. The bolts are attached securely to the top face of the block and extend forward at an angle. Once the blade or blades **22** are held in place by the rod **26**, the bolts are passed though the ~~tensioning~~ compress bar and the appropriate ~~tension~~ compression may be applied to the blade by selectively tightening or loosening the wing nuts **32**. Washers **34** are utilized to space the wing nuts from the stripping block.

Please replace the paragraph starting at line 110 as follows:

The wire stripper of the present invention is utilized in the following manner. With the ~~tensioning~~ compress bar removed or loosened, the strands of wire are inserted through the wire apertures **12**. As disclosed, the wire stripper can be used to strip one strand of wire or more than one strand simultaneously. Moreover, by appropriately selecting the diameter of the wire aperture, multiple gauges of wire can be easily accommodated. Next, the blade or blades are inserted as disclosed, and the rod is inserted through the bore in the block and through the tear-drop holes in the blades. Next, the ~~tensioning~~ compress bar is attached by inserting the bolt on the block through the holes on tensioning bar. Appropriate ~~tension~~ compression is applied to the blade by tightening the wing nuts as much as necessary to strip the wire. Finally, the wire (shown as W on the drawings) is pulled through the wire apertures thereby slitting the insulation. Specifically, the user pulls the wire from the front of the wire stripper and the blade makes a longitudinal slit in the insulation (the blade makes a cut into the insulation with is parallel to the longitudinal axis of the wire.) It should be obvious that the [tension] pressure on the blade should be high enough to cut through the insulation, yet not so high as to damage the wire.